

April 15, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
OTTAWA ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

I am writing to share Saskatchewan's formal submission to the consultation request that you made on April 8, 2020. Your letter stated that the federal government is considering a declaration of a public welfare emergency, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. As you have acknowledged, this requires formal consultation under section 14 of the *Emergencies Act*. Please consider this letter, in addition to my discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and the conversations among First Ministers, as the Government of Saskatchewan's response to the consultation.

Per the Act, strict criteria must be met in order for the federal government to declare a national public welfare emergency and invoke the *Emergencies Act*. The situation must not only "exceed the capacity or authority of a province to deal with it," but it must also surpass the point where it can "be effectively dealt with under any other law of Canada." To meet this threshold, the COVID-19 outbreak would have to exceed the abilities of our collective efforts and respective authorities. Given the tools at our disposal, and the collaboration that is already underway, this threshold has not been met. The *Emergencies Act* is not the correct tool to deal with this crisis.

You have identified the food supply chain and the procurement of medical goods as pressing priorities for consideration. However, these complex issues are best addressed when our governments bring our respective expertise to the table. Complex procurement and supply chain networks are not easily unwound and rebuilt. When there is a genuine commitment to coordinate our efforts, as we have seen among our jurisdictions to date, regional expertise can be a critical factor in success and expediency.

You have noted that the use of the *Emergencies Act* would be a final and most drastic measure in the response to this pandemic. In fact, it may serve as a distraction from the unprecedented collaboration that our governments have worked hard to achieve. As I have noted previously, I am confident that we have ability, capacity and authority needed to face this emergency together.

Please see the attached Annex for an overview of the existing authorities that Saskatchewan would highlight to address COVID-19. I look forward to our continued dialogue.

Sincerely,

Scott Moe
Premier of Saskatchewan

cc: Cam Swan, Deputy Minister to the Premier
Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada